

What is claimed is:

1. A drumhead for musical drums comprising:  
a circular membrane having a substantially flat crown and a contoured outer rim retained in a circular hoop;
- 5 an annular formation of plastic film intimately adhered to the membrane and having a plurality of relief irregularities;  
wherein said annular formation is entirely located in the radial outward-most 50% of said crown.
- 10 2. The drumhead of claim 1, wherein the formation has a flat surface facing the membrane and all of said flat surface is adhered to the membrane.
3. The drumhead of claim 1, wherein the relief irregularities are  
15 defined by radially or circumferentially extending notches, slots, or gaps.
4. The drumhead of claim 1, wherein the relief irregularities are defined by a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart apertures.
- 20 5. The drumhead of claim 1, wherein the membrane is a plastic film and the formation is adhered to said membrane by a viscoelastic adhesive.
6. The drumhead of claim 4, wherein the membrane has a thickness  
25 in the range of 10 to 15 mils, the formation has a thickness in the range of 3 to 5 mils, and the adhesive has a thickness in the range of 0.5 to 3 mils.

7. The drumhead of claim 5, wherein the membrane and the formation are the same plastic material.

8. The drumhead of claim 6, wherein the material is polyester.

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9. The drumhead of claim 4, wherein the adhesive is an acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive.

10. A drumhead for musical drums comprising a membrane held in a circular hoop adapted to fit over the transverse end of a hollow cylindrically-shaped drum shell, said drumhead having a drum shell contact interface where the membrane bears on said drum shell, said drumhead comprising:

15 an annular formation of plastic film adhered to a surface of the membrane by a layer of adhesive, said annular formation of plastic film including radial or circumferential relief provided by removal of portions of said plastic film and adhesive,

20 wherein said plastic film is positioned at a location radially inwardly from the contact interface but in a radial outward-most 30% of said membrane.

11. The drumhead of claim 10, wherein said plastic film has a thickness that is less than a thickness of said membrane.

25 12. The drumhead of claim 10, wherein said plastic film is polyester and said membrane is polyester.

13. The drumhead of claim 10, wherein said layer of adhesive is an acrylic adhesive having a substantially uniform thickness of less than approximately three one thousandth of an inch (.003").

5 14. The drumhead of claim 10, wherein said annular formation is a ring and said radial or circumferential relief is in the form of openings in the ring.

10 15. The drumhead of claim 10, wherein said annular formation has an outside diameter of between one half (0.5") and one inch (1") less than a stated diameter of the drumhead.

15 16. The drumhead of claim 10, wherein said annular formation has a radial width of between five percent (5%) and ten percent (10%) of the stated diameter of the drumhead.

20 17. A tone control device for use in combination with a drumhead, said drumhead including a drumhead membrane having a first diameter and inside and outside surfaces fixed at a circumferential edge to a drumhead hoop, said inside surface having a drum shell bearing area adjacent said drumhead hoop, said tone control device comprising:

a polyester film layer having a substantially uniform thickness in the range of 2 to 5 thousandths of an inch (.002" - .005") between first and second surfaces,

25 a pressure sensitive adhesive layer having a substantially uniform thickness of approximately 3 mils or less covering one of said first or second surfaces; and

a release liner removably covering said pressure sensitive adhesive layer;

wherein said tone control device is configured for adhesion to said membrane at a location radially inwardly spaced from said drum shell bearing area and in the radially outward-most 50% of said membrane.

5 18. The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said device defines a plurality of openings in said polyester film layer and said pressure sensitive adhesive layer.

10 19. The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said device comprises a radially inner ring and a radially outer ring separated by a circumferential space, said outer ring connected to said inner ring by a plurality of radial spokes.

15 20. The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said polyester film layer is no thicker than the drumhead membrane to which it will be attached.

20 21. The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said device is symmetrical about an axis centered on and perpendicular to the ring.

22. The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said device is a ring defining openings.

25 23. The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said device is a ring with a convoluted outer peripheral edge.

24. The tone control device of claim 23, wherein said device is a ring with a convoluted inner peripheral edge.

wherein said tone control device is configured for adhesion to said membrane at a location radially inwardly spaced from said drum shell bearing area and in the radially outward-most 50% of said membrane.

5    18.    The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said device defines a plurality of openings in said polyester film layer and said pressure sensitive adhesive layer.

10    19.    The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said device comprises a radially inner ring and a radially outer ring separated by a circumferential space, said outer ring connected to said inner ring by a plurality of radial spokes.

15    20.    The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said polyester film layer is no thicker than the drumhead membrane to which it will be attached.

20    21.    The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said device is symmetrical about an axis centered on and perpendicular to the ring.

22.    The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said device is a ring defining openings.

25    23.    The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said device is a ring with a convoluted outer peripheral edge.

24.    The tone control device of claim 23, wherein said device is a ring with a convoluted inner peripheral edge.

25. The tone control device of claim 17, wherein said device includes a plurality of substantially identical portions of said film layer, adhesive layer and release liner.